The term ‘well-rounded education’ means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.

S. 2277 (52)
As ESSA is implemented on the state and local school district levels, music and arts education advocates are encouraged to use the 3Rs of advocacy to assure that ALL children have the opportunity to learn and grow with music and the arts.

**Remind** school and community leaders about the benefits of music and the many ways in which music can strengthen a student’s connection to school.

**FACT**
Children who study a musical instrument are more likely to excel in all of their studies, work better in teams, have enhanced critical thinking skills, stay in school, and pursue further education.

**FACT**
Benefits of music for children include learning cooperation, sharing, compromise, creativity, and concentration—skills that become invaluable as they enter school, face new challenges, and begin to form new friendships and develop social skills.

**FACT**
89% of teachers and 82% of parents rate music education highly as a source for greater student creativity, a 21st century skill that’s highly likely to help young people stand out in an increasingly competitive global economy.

**Reinforce** what’s in the law.
Make sure local school district administrators, state legislators and education leaders know about NEW language in the ESSA that includes music as part of “a well-rounded education.”

Since a school’s curriculum is determined by the state or local education department, local districts have the opportunity to act on the overwhelming belief of parents and teachers that music should be available to all students as part of the curriculum. To access research that describes the benefits of learning music and its impact on fostering successful schools, visit nammfoundation.org/why-music-matters/research-briefs-did-you-know.

**Request** that your school administration collaborate with the state education department as district plans are finalized to align with state ESSA plans.

Request that your administration:

- Develop and expand music education programs for all students as part of school turnaround and reform objectives; encourage districts to assess if music education is available to ALL students, and encourage use of Federal Title 1 and IV funds to expand music education.
- Provide support for highly qualified teachers and educational materials
- Review the district’s opportunities to participate in the federal preschool grant program that includes the arts within the Essential Domain of School Readiness definition.
- Work to assure that music education is part of school climate accountability and assessment measures that are reportable to both state and federal education agencies.

Stay current on ESSA planning developments and visit the frequently updated Education Commission on the States website ecs.org/essa-mapping-opportunities-for-the-arts.

**Expand** access to music education
**Strengthen** students’ connection to school
**Provide** a well-rounded education
**Equip** students with 21st century skills

**ILU**

**ILU**